

[Translation]

Excise Duty on Cars

6656. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI
ASHRAF FATMI:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recommended for any reduction in excise duty on passenger cars as a step to overcome the recession in the industry as reported in the Statesman dated March 9, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other suggestions made by the Government to fight the industrial recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). Government attention has been drawn to the news item in "The Statesman" dated 9.3.1992. As part of the annual exercise in connection with the Union Budget, the Industry Ministry reviews the indirect taxes structure as applicable to the different sectors under its administrative control. The Government's final decision in such proposals is reflected in the Union Budget. The Budget contains different measures for the healthy growth of the industrial sector and the economy. As announced in the Budget, 1992-93, special excise duty on products was raised from 10% to 15%. Passenger cars have been exempted from this increase as the industry has been passing through a difficult phase.

(c) Measures announced in the Union Budget for 1992-93, such as reduction of duties, elimination of import licensing except for a small Negative List, reduction in statu-

tory liquidity ratio, reduction in floor level, interest rates, etc. are designed to improve the health of the industrial sector.

[English]

Committee on Mass Transportation in Cities

6657. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee of experts on metropolitan transportation has been set up by the Planning Commission to identify alternative modes of mass transportation in cities with a population of one million and above;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted any report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). The Committee of Experts of Metropolitan Transport was set up by the Planning Commission in 1984. The Committee submitted only an interim report in 1985 in respect of six Metropolitan cities of Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabad. The Committee recommended constitution of Apex bodies and inter-Ministerial bodies for looking into urban transport matters and Ministry of Urban Development to be the nodal agency. It had also recommended establishment of a Central Metropolitan Transport Fund.

Malpractices in Super Bazar

6658. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of instances of malpractices having taken place and that have come

to the notice in the purchase of items/disposal thereof in the Super Bazar Delhi;

(b) the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) the steps taken to revamp and revitalise the Super Bazar and the number of complaints received about the overcharging of rates by its branches, and

(d) whether there is any proposal to involve the Super Bazar in the Public Distribution System by directing it to open fair price shops in all its branch stores, if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). The Cooperative Store Ltd, Delhi popularly known as Super Bazar has stated that three instances of malpractices have come to their notice during the year 1991-92. In one case orders for purchase of footwear which were not approved by the purchase Committee were placed with the party and goods were purchased. In other two cases, tea in excess of normal requirement was purchased. Explanations of the concerned employees have been called and suitable action will be taken against them.

(c) Super Bazar has informed that their purchase system is functioning adequately and is reviewed from time to time. Fortnightly tender system has been introduced to ensure purchase at competitive rates. During 1991-92 four complaints of overcharging of rates were received.

(d) No, Sir, Super Bazar has informed that in the past the proposal to open fair price shops in the branches of Super Bazar has

been examined. The proposal was not found to be practical due to non-availability of additional accommodation on reasonable rates. Super Bazar is already selling similar items of different quality from their branches at different rates and to sell similar items under fair price shops from the same outlet would pose many day to day problems of inventory control and accounting. However, Super Bazar is selling almost all items of daily need including some items already under Public Distribution System.

Language for Computer

6659. SHRISHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given on December 4, 1991 to Starred Question No. 183 and state:

(a) the progress made in the project of solving Artificial Intelligence System through Indian Sanskrit Tradition in each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of the research centres where Sanskrit is being used in computer work;

(c) when the work for Standardising a Code under the Technology Development for Indian Languages had begun and whether any code was so devised, if so, when and how many times and the progress made since then in this regard; and

(d) the target fixed for accepting Sanskrit as the computer language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Under the Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) Programme of the Department of Electronics, a number of projects involving